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(THE)
TWENTY-FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT
ON THE WORK OF THE
FABIAN SOCIETY, LONDON

FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31st MARCH, 1908.

PRESENTED TO AND ADOPTED BY THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
SOCIETY ON 22ND MAY, 1908.

Also the Rules of the Society.

PUBLISHED BY
THE FABIAN SOCIETY, 3 CLEMENT'S INN, STRAND,
LONDON, W.C.
JUNE, 1908.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

1908—9.

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W. S. SANDERS.
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SIDNEY WEBB.
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Mrs. H. G. WELLS.

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Hon. Treasurer :
HUBERT BLAND.

Secretary :
EDWARD R. PEASE.

Office :
3 CLEMENT'S INN, STRAND,
LONDON, W.C.

Bankers :
LONDON AND COUNTY BANK.

The Fabian Society.

ESTABLISHED 1883.

TWENTY-FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH, 1908

ADOPTED AT THE ANNUAL MEETING ON 22ND MAY, 1908.

THE past year has witnessed a growth in the membership, the funds, and the operations of the Society without precedent in its annals. Perhaps the most novel feature of this growth is the rate of increase in the formation of local societies, which now number twenty-seven, of which five are university societies; whilst our last Report only included ten societies, three of them in connection with universities.

In London the fortnightly Essex Hall lecture has been supplemented by a succession of meetings organized by the local and subject Groups, which have afforded opportunities for instruction and practice in public affairs to an ever growing number of members.

NEW SOCIETIES.

In the Summer the Executive resolved to make a definite effort to establish Fabian Societies in various towns throughout the country. As a result, partly of this effort and partly of spontaneous growth, new societies have been formed at Buckhurst Hill, Bute, Cardiff, Carnarvon, Chelmsford, Coventry, Hull, Newcastle, Perth, Sheffield, and at Bedales School, Petersfield. An independent Fabian Society at Southport has become regularized and associated with the parent body; and a Fabian Group has been established at Swansea as a preliminary step to the birth of a society.

New societies of students have also been formed at Edinburgh and London Universities.

LONDON LOCAL GROUPS.

In London, new Groups have been started during the year for Forest Gate, Ilford, Lewisham and district, and St. Pancras; and a special group has been organized in connection with the Lyceum Club. All these bodies have held numerous meetings, some public and others of a more private character. For instance, the Kensington and District Group organized several large propaganda meetings, which were addressed by G. B. Shaw, Sidney Webb, Mrs. W. P. Reeves, Miss Murby and W. Sanders, as well as a number of smaller gatherings. Lectures were also arranged by the Group to be given by members to trade unions and other bodies. The Clapham Society ran several large meetings with Sidney Webb and G. Lansbury, among others, as speakers; a course of Suburban Lectures; and a series of periodical meetings. The Central District Group made a specialty of holding debates with other organizations, which proved to be excellent propaganda work. In addition to these, meetings and lectures were held at 30 Red Lion Square and Prince Henry's Room. The Lewisham and District Group, formed in the Autumn, soon got to work and held a series of meetings, including a largely attended course of Suburban Lectures at New Cross. The East Middlesex Group organized an equally successful course at Wood Green. The Hampstead Group, in co-operation with the local Socialist Centre, arranged a similar course. The Marylebone and Paddington Group held a number of educational lectures, and has made progress in a very difficult area. The Lyceum Club Group has held discussion meetings and organized a highly successful Fabian Dinner at the club. The Northern Heights Group ran a course of Suburban Lectures at Highgate. The Croydon Group has developed into a Society with numerous activities. The other local Groups were formed just before the close of the period covered by the Report.

SUBJECT GROUPS

Meanwhile, the need for further study of special subjects has led to the institution of a number of new Groups, and a remarkable multiplication of meetings. Groups for Local Government, Education, and Biology have been formed; and a Women's Group (confined to women members) "to study and discuss women's economic independence in relation to Socialism." The Arts Group continued its successful career with a series of lectures at Clifford's Inn and another at Prince Henry's Room.

The Fabian Nursery, besides its periodical meetings at 3 Clement's Inn, held a course of three lectures by H. G. Wells at Clifford's Inn, at which he gave in fuller form his lecture prepared for the course on "The Faith I Hold." The Education Group, divided into three sections, has mapped a large scheme of work and held many meetings, including two at Clifford's Inn: one in connection with the medical inspection and treatment of school-children, with Sir Victor Horsley as chief speaker; and the other (in conjunction with the

Local Government Group) to discuss the Education Bill (1908), Sidney Webb opening the debate. The Local Government Group has been engaged in considering the question of the relation of the municipal expert to the elected representative, and the problem of area in connection with local government, especially with regard to the extension of London. On the first of these subjects the Group is preparing a Tract. The Biology Group has held a number of meetings, in which the various aspects of the relation of biological science to social progress were considered.

Further particulars of the Local Societies and Groups will be found on pp. 21-23.

CONFERENCES OF LOCAL SOCIETIES AND GROUPS.

In order to arrange the conditions of Group and Local Society organization, a conference of delegates from local Fabian Societies and London Groups was held on July 6th, and attended by members of the Executive and by delegates from six Local Societies, three University Societies, eight London Groups, and four special Subject Groups—in all forty-eight persons. Regulations for Local Societies and Groups were discussed and adopted, and proposals for propaganda considered. It was agreed that another conference should be held next year.

SUBURBAN LECTURES.

Twelve courses of four lectures each, under the Suburban Scheme introduced last season, were given between the beginning of October and the end of March by Wm. Sanders and Harry Snell at High Wycombe, Brentwood, Wood Green, New Cross, Balham, Hampstead, East Ham, Acton, Stoke Newington, Harrow, Highgate, and Walthamstow. The number of courses shows an increase of three as compared with last year, and the demand for them was greater than could be met. A new feature in connection with these lectures was that five of the courses were organized by local Fabian Groups; and these were among the most successful. The total net cost of the lectures amounted to £106.

OTHER LECTURES.

A new Lecture List was compiled during the Summer, containing the names of over 200 members in London and the provinces willing to address meetings. A circular letter was sent to over 250 newspapers, announcing that the Society was prepared to provide lecturers on subjects connected with Socialism and social reform. As a result 280 lectures in courses and otherwise were arranged through the Society's office to be given by members of the Society to various kinds of organizations, social, political and religious. These were in addition to the lectures arranged by the various Fabian Groups and those booked direct with the lecturers, the number of which has been large. A series of afternoon lectures by members of the Exec-

utive and others, arranged by Mrs. Cavendish Bentinck, Mrs. Skipwith and Mrs. Hodgkinson, took place at 23 Manchester Square, Rutland House, and 36 Charles Street, Mayfair. They were very well attended and much interest was aroused.

QUEEN'S HALL MEETING.

A new departure was made in the work of propaganda by the holding of a public meeting at Queen's Hall on March 16th, with Sidney Webb in the chair, which was addressed by G. B. Shaw on the subject of Socialism. The venture was in every way a success. All the seats in the house were sold out long before the date, and a multitude of persons were refused admission through lack of room. The total receipts were £186, the expenses £70, leaving a balance of £116. By the help of a staff of volunteer stewards and distributors, more than twelve pounds' worth of Tracts, etc., were sold.

"WHAT FABIANISM MEANS."

A course of five lectures under this title was given at Prince Henry's Room, 17 Fleet Street, during November and December. The course was open to members only, and a charge of 5s. was made. About forty members attended. The lecturers and subjects were as follows :

"The Vice of Catastrophism." By SIDNEY WEBB.

"The Failure of Utopian Commonwealths." By AYLMER MAUDE.

"Rent and Value." By BERNARD SHAW.

"The Need of Political Action." By W. SANDERS.

"The Limits of Socialism." By HUBERT BLAND.

PRINCE HENRY'S ROOM.

In order to secure a meeting place for the various groups, the office not being convenient for this purpose, the Society engaged Prince Henry's Room, 17 Fleet Street, for about 30 evenings at 12s. 6d. per letting, and sublet it to the groups for 5s. per evening. A considerable number of gatherings have been held in the room under the auspices of the London University, Central District, Biology, Local Government, and Education Groups.

FABIAN SUMMER SCHOOL.

The most novel enterprise of the year has been the Summer School in North Wales. A large house at Llanbedr, Merioneth, was taken for a period of three years, and simple furniture purchased. A guarantee fund was raised among members of the Society and a loan fund to cover furnishing expenses. The School was opened from July 27th till September 14th. For these six weeks there were about 140 visitors; while during August the number daily catered for at Pen-yr-Allt was about sixty, of whom many, who could not be accommodated in the house, were provided with rooms in the village.

Lectures were given on the history, philosophy and literature of Socialist thought and on some concrete problems of legislation and administration. Among the former were lectures by Miss B. L. Hutchins on Southwood Smith and the early Public Health Reformers; by Sydney Herbert on Marx; by Aylmer Maude on Tolstoy; by J. McKillop on Robert Owen; by J. A. Fallows on Ibsen and on Buddha; and by Mrs. Townshend on Rodbertus; and courses of lectures by Miss Mabel Atkinson on "The Influence of Darwinism on Ethical Thought," and by Chas. Charrington Martin on Modern Dramatists. Among the latter were lectures by Sidney Webb on Poor Law Reform; by Reginald Bray on "A Substitute for Apprenticeship"; by Miss Hutchins on Sweating; by E. R. Pease on Control of Drink Traffic; by G. R. S. Taylor on Local Government; by Dr. F. Rose and Dr. Hulbert on the Open Air School; and by F. Lawson Dodd on the Provision of Medical Service. A course of lectures was also given by Frederic Keeling on Economic History.

The School owed much of its success to G. B. Shaw and Mrs. Shaw, who took a house near by. They visited Pen-yr-Allt constantly and shared in the life of the School. He took part frequently in debates and gave readings from his plays, besides lecturing on Education, Marriage, Foreign Politics, and Socialism for Novices.

The School proved a valuable meeting place for Socialists of many types from all parts of the country, and has helped to introduce a new social spirit into the Society.

The financial result was satisfactory. Experience has suggested many improvements in management, and the Committee believe that the experiment will also prove a financial success, particularly if they can succeed in letting the house during the off months.

MEETINGS OF THE SOCIETY.

The Society as a whole has held twenty-one regular meetings, two more than in each of the last two years.

During the Spring Session the course on "Socialism and the Middle Classes" was completed by four lectures by members of the Society.

In the Autumn a set of six lectures on "The Faith I Hold" was given by six of the best known members; and although strictly confined to members, associates, and subscribers, every meeting was crowded.

Seven other lectures, five of them by distinguished non-members, complete the list.

Four Business Meetings were held during the year: one was devoted to the Report on Political Policy, one to the Railway Dispute, and the others, the Annual Meeting and a Special Meeting to confirm the amendment to the Basis, were mainly occupied with discussion on the progress and prospects of the Society and its work.

The list of meetings is as follows :

"SOCIALISM AND THE MIDDLE CLASSES,"

(*Concluded.*)

April 26.	"Socialism and the Medical Profession"	...	...	F. LAWSON DODD
May 31.	"Socialism and the Arts and Crafts"	...	...	A. E. R. GILL
June 14.	"Socialism and the Legal Profession"	...	...	R. C. K. ENSOR
June 28.	"Socialism and the Press"	..	...	CECIL E. CHESTERTON

"THE FAITH I HOLD" SERIES.

Oct. 11.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Mrs SIDNEY WEBB
Oct. 25.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Rev. R. J. CAMPBELL
Nov. 8.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	S. G. HOBSON
Nov. 22.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Dr. STANTON COIT
Dec. 6.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	... H. G. WELLS
Dec. 20.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	HUBERT BLAND

OTHER LECTURES.

April 12.	"The Duty of Government in Relation to the Health and Wellbeing of the People"	...	Rt. Hon. Sir JOHN GORST
July 12.	"The Future Socialism"	...	Mrs ANNIE BESANT
Nov. 1.	"Municipal Socialism in Germany"	...	Dr. SUDEKUM
Jan. 10.	"Social Progress and the Empire"	...	Sir JOHN COCKBURN
Feb. 14.	"Old Age Pensions"	...	Hon. W. P. REEVES
Feb. 28.	"Town Planning"	...	RAYMOND UNWIN
Mar. 13.	"The Waste of Capital"	...	L. G. CHIOZZA MONEY, M.P.

BUSINESS MEETINGS.

May 10.	Annal Meeting.
Oct. 18.	Discussion on the Progress of the Society.
Dec. 23.	Special Meeting to Discuss Manifesto on the Railway Dispute Settlement.
Jan. 24.	Discussion on the Political Policy of the Society.

THE SOCIAL SIDE OF MEMBERSHIP.

In the Fabian Society, as in political organizations of all classes, gatherings for the promotion of social intercourse between the members are a necessary aid to direct activities. In June the Second Annual Soirée was held at the Suffolk Street Galleries and was very well attended. In April some 135 members dined together at the Holborn Restaurant in order to celebrate the appointment of Sydney Olivier to the Governorship of Jamaica, and to bid him farewell on his departure to this important post. In both cases the sale of tickets more than covered the expenses.

In order to bring new members into touch with the others, a Special Committee has been charged with the duty of making their acquaintance by means of gatherings which have been hitherto held at private houses kindly lent for the purpose.

INTERNAL ORGANIZATION.

In accordance with proposals adopted last year, the Executive Committee distributed its work amongst three sub-committees—Finance and General Purposes, Publishing, and Propaganda—and it was found necessary to appoint an Organizing Secretary, Alderman Wm. Sanders, to devote a part of his time to the work of the last committee and to organizing local societies and groups throughout London and the country. This scheme of devolution enables the members of the Executive Committee to give special attention to those departments which more particularly interest them, and it has proved a satisfactory method of dealing with the greatly increased mass of details. Besides these standing sub-committees, special committees, not exclusively composed of members of the Executive, have undertaken other branches of work. One of these, managing the Summer School, is a subsidiary organization, worked through the Society and by its staff, but with an entirely separate financial basis, and assets and liabilities with which the Society as such has no responsibility. A report of the operations of the School and its committee is given on another page. Another committee prepared the Political Policy Report, afterwards adopted by the Society, and a third appointed to consider a revision of the Basis has not yet completed that difficult and delicate task.

The Executive Committee received instructions from the series of Members' Meetings held just before their election, in accordance with which they appointed a Committee, consisting of members of the Executive and of others, to consider the Political Policy of the Society. This Committee drew up a Report, which was issued to the members in January, and adopted by the Society on January 24th with practical unanimity. In accordance with this Report the Executive decided to make an enquiry of all members of the Society whether they desired the establishment of an election fund, and the amount they would be prepared to subscribe thereto. The replies to this circular were not received during the period covered by this Report.

Much valuable work of one kind or another has been done individually by members of the Society, only a small part of which is reported to, or otherwise known to the Executive Committee. Suggestions for such work, notably in the way of distributing literature, writing to the press and arranging for lectures and meetings, have been made to the members from time to time, by *Labian News* or special circulars. In January a special letter of exhortation was addressed to the members, and this it is proposed to repeat annually, as it is only by raising to a still higher pitch the individual activities of the ever-enlarging membership that the Society can exercise its full influence.

POLITICAL MANIFESTOES.

The Railway Workers' Dispute.—In November the Executive Committee, with the approval of a meeting of members, issued a

manifesto dwelling on the public concern in the then pending strike of the railway employees, and suggesting that the President of the Board of Trade should use all the powers at his command to coerce the companies. A settlement was reached on a proposal by the Board of Trade for the formation of a wages board under a chairman appointed, in default of agreement, by a public official, whose decision should be binding; and in view of the hostile criticism to which this was subjected, the Executive issued a letter to the press, approving of the settlement as being strictly in accordance with Socialist principles. In December a group of members called a Special Meeting by "a requisition of urgency," a provision in the rules of the Society which has never before been put in operation, and moved a resolution challenging the action of the Executive, which, however, was defeated by a very large majority.

In March an appeal was sent to Members of Parliament and to the Society urging the inclusion in the "Children's Bill, 1908," of clauses forbidding street trading by children. A number of minor amendments to the Bill were drawn up by the Executive, and copies of these have been supplied to Members of Parliament specially interested in the Bill.

In the same month resolutions hostile to the Education Bill, 1908, on the ground that the "contracting out" clauses were reactionary in character and would lower the present standard of educational efficiency, were issued.

The Tract on "Paupers and Old Age Pensions," by Sidney Webb, was sent in November to all Members of Parliament, and attracted some attention from them.

THE FABIAN SOCIALIST SERIES.

The most important publication undertaken during the year was a series of sixpenny books published for the Society by Mr. A. C. Fifield. The first four of the series were issued in February, and each consisted of four Fabian Tracts revised by the authors and reprinted in a new format. Their titles are :—

1. Socialism and Religion.
2. Socialism and Agriculture.
3. Socialism and Individualism.
4. Basis and Policy of Socialism.

The venture so far promises extremely well, as the sale both in paper covers at 6d. and bound in boards at 1s. has more than exceeded our expectation. The publication has been managed by Mr. Fifield at our expense and risk: the cost of the first four of the series has already been paid and appears in the accounts on another page. The proceeds, except of the copies retailed by ourselves, are not due from the publisher for some months, but it is hoped that the transaction will result in substantial profit to the Society. Other volumes are in preparation.

TRACT PRINTING AND DISTRIBUTION.

This department of our work shows an expansion proportionate to the growth of the Society in other directions. As will be seen from the accompanying table, the number of Tracts distributed has nearly doubled, and the receipts have increased in like proportion. The result of this growth is that the difference between the cost of printing and the receipts from sales, which was £85 last year, and £66 the year before, has fallen to £42; and but for the fact that no less than 30,000 Tracts (including 10,000 of No. 137, "Parish Councils and Village Life," which are to be sent to the chairman of every parish and rural district council in England and Wales) were printed within a few days of the close of the year, a substantial profit would be shown. It must be observed that our Tract publication is deliberately carried on for the purpose of propaganda rather than profit. A copy of each new Tract published is sent gratuitously to every member, and when occasion arises copies are sent to Members of Parliament (as during this year No. 135, "Paupers and Old Age Pensions") or other persons. Moreover Tracts thought to be educationally valuable are printed whether or not a profit from them is anticipated.

Five new penny Tracts have been issued during the year, the same number as the previous year, and one Leaflet. The Tracts are:

No. 132. "A Guide to Books for Socialists."

No. 133. "Socialism and Christianity." By the Rev. PERCY DEARMER.

No. 134. "Small Holdings, Allotments, and Common Pastures" (Leaflet).

No. 135. "Paupers and Old Age Pensions." By SIDNEY WEBB.

No. 136. "The Village and the Landlord." By EDWARD CARPENTER.

No. 137. "Parish Councils and Village Life."

The number of Tracts and Leaflets sold and distributed during recent years is as follows:

Year ending March	1908	1907	1906	1905	1904
Tracts ...	149,594	82,508	56,029	20,528	*48,126
Leaflets ...	102,160	63,360	22,060	29,010	31,460
TOTALS ...	251,754	145,868	78,089	49,538	79,586

* 20,000 given away under a Tract Distribution Scheme.

	£	£	£	£	£
Receipts ...	476	244	140	76	89
Cost of Printing	518	329	214	87	162

Our list of Tracts in the regular series now stands as follows:

	6d.	2d.	1d.	Questions	Leaflets	Total
Tracts of previous years	1	1	52	3	16	73
" 1907-8 ...	0	0	5	0	1	6
	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>57</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>79</u>

Eighteen Tracts, including "This Misery of Boots," and six Leaflets have been reprinted during the year. Four penny Tracts and three Leaflets have been sold out and not reprinted, whilst two Leaflets have been withdrawn. Of the Leaflets sold some 62,000 were No. 104, "How Trade Unions Benefit Workmen," whilst over 30,000 copies of No. 82, "The Workmen's Compensation Act," are also included in the sales.

TABLE OF TRACTS PRINTED AND ISSUED DURING YEAR 1907-1908.

Price.	Stock 1 April, '07.	Printed during year.	Total.	Stock 31 Mar., 1908.	Distributed during year.	Cost of Printing, Binding, etc., during year.	Proceeds of Sales (estimd.)	Estimd. Sale Value of pre- sent stock.
1s.	568	nil	568	503	65	£ nil	£ 2	£ 3
6d.	1,722	nil	1,722	817	905	nil	15	12
3d.	250	10,000	10,250	2,208	8,042	65	60	16
2d.	1,379	2,000	3,379	2,041	1,338	7	5	10
1d.	118,601	162,290	280,891	141,647	139,244	400	344	165
Leaflets.	55,800	99,700	155,500	53,340	102,160*	46	50	4
Totals	178,320	273,990	452,310	200,556	251,754	£518	£476	£210
1906-7	161,401	162,787	324,188	178,320	145,868	£329	£244	£160

* Including 6,340 copies which were destroyed as out of date.

The circulation of Fabian Essays has again shown a great increase. From 398 copies in 1905, the sales by the publisher grew to 1,383 in 1906, and to no less than 2,407 in 1907. Our own sales, which were to the value of £28 last year, have this year amounted to £45, which does not include a considerable number not yet paid for.

H. M. Hart has again been our regular bookstall attendant, but has required the assistance of the Office Staff in his greatly increased duties. To him our thanks are due for his assiduous attention to this work, and we may at the same time place on record the valuable

assistance given by Charles E. Ball, who has devoted a great amount of time to the monotonous business of addressing envelopes at the Office.

BOOK BOXES.

The great increase in the number of branches of the I. L. P. and the attention directed to Socialism in the press has led to a steady growth in the demand for our circulating libraries. It was decided in the Summer to expend a further sum on books, and at the same time to revise the conditions and raise the fee from six shillings to ten shillings a year. Notwithstanding this higher charge, the number of subscriptions grew larger instead of less; and in the Spring further expenditure was authorized and an appeal made for a fund of £500. A substantial sum has been promised, but only a small part has been actually received during the year. In this period £184 has been spent on the purchase of thirty-one new boxes and books for them, or to renew the contents of the other boxes; whilst £87 has been received in fees and £15 in subscriptions. The number of boxes in circulation is now about 207; containing over 6,000 volumes of books, and representing a total capital outlay of more than a thousand pounds.

The following is a classification of the subscribers for this and previous years:

	Year ending	1908	1907	1906	1905	1904
Independent Labor Party Branches		70	33	31	15	18
Local Fabian Societies *	12				
Other Socialist Bodies	34	30	13	14	12
Co-operative Societies	35	23	36	41	40
Trade Unions	21	24	21	19	18
Trades Councils	9	11	8	19	23
Ruskin College Classes	4	11	11	7	8
Miscellaneous	18	23	38	37	25
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
		203	155	158	152	144

* These were included in other Socialist Societies in previous years.

STATISTICS OF MEMBERSHIP.

The following is the analysis of membership at the end of the year under review. (These statistics do not include either the Associates of the University Societies or the members of Local Societies—about 450—who are not members of the parent Society.)

		London.	Country.	Provincial Societies.	University Societies.	Abroad.	Total.
Men	...	673	252	274	164	61	1424
Women	...	412	65	55	41	18	591
Total	...	1085	317	329	205	79	2015
1907	...	704		503		60	1267
Increase...		381		348		19	748

Increase in men members... 52 per cent. ; last year 30 per cent.

Increase in women members 78 per cent. ; last year 95 per cent.

The number of candidates elected during the year was 817 ; last year it was 455. A few old members have been replaced on the list, and one or two defaulters of long standing have been struck off. The loss through resignation, death, etc., is 69.

The number of associates is now 163, an increase of 101 over last year. The roll of subscribers has grown by about 50 per cent., as indicated by the increase of receipts under this head.

It is worthy of record that three of our new recruits are members of the House of Commons.

THE YEAR'S FINANCE.

Notwithstanding the increase of membership and of receipts from all sources recorded in our last Report, the year 1906-7 closed with a debit balance of £30. In view of the demand for new activities, as well as the expenditure entailed by the rapidly lengthening list of members, a circular letter was issued in the Summer asking members to promise larger contributions. The response to this circular was not unsatisfactory. By this means, together with the greater number of new members and associates enrolled, our income has been enlarged to a point far above any former record. Other sources of income have yielded more in like proportion, and the year closes with a substantial balance on the right side.

In fact the situation is more favorable than appears on the face. Nearly £200 expended on Suburban Lectures and new books for book boxes, which in former years have been provided out of other funds, have this year been paid for out of our ordinary resources. Further the sum of £153 (£178, less sales by us estimated at £25) has been invested in the Fabian Series published for us by Mr. A. C. Fifield, and is returnable to us at a later date, although in fact it is likely to be used for further issues in the same series.

But in the coming year we shall no longer receive the annuity towards office rent, hitherto derived from the compensation received for ejection from our former office, which expired last April ; whilst further expenditure will be necessary in staff salaries, etc,

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

At the election held in March 1907 for a period of thirteen months no less than thirty-seven candidates contested the twenty-one seats on the newly enlarged Executive. Eleven out of the twelve members of the old Committee of fifteen who stood for re-election and ten new candidates were successful. The election was fought with much vigor and with a certain element of party spirit, which, however, did not outlast the period of the contest.

SIDNEY BALL.
H. GRANVILLE BARKER.
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CHARLOTTE F. SHAW.
GEORGE STANDRING.
G. R. S. TAYLOR.
SIDNEY WEBB.

H. G. WELLS.

Executive Committee 1907-8.

ending March 31st, 1908.

Cr.

1907.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
BY BALANCE at Debit of Society, 31st									
March, 1907				29	14	10½			
EXPENDITURE DURING YEAR, viz.:—									
Hire of Halls for Lectures, etc. ...				80	17	6	60	12	0
Printing and Advertising Tracts ..				517	19	3	328	14	3
Cost of Fabian Series, I.—IV. ...				178	11	10			
Printing FABIAN NEWS				118	19	6	82	2	0
General Printing				96	2	8	81	16	3
Grants to other bodies :—									
Labor Party Dues, etc.	12	13	8				4	13	9
International Socialist Bureau Dues	14	0	0				7	0	0
Sundries	1	6	0				2	7	0
				27	19	8			
Office Expenses, viz. :—									
Salaries	570	18	0				254	0	0
Extra Assistance, Typing, etc. ...	39	11	8				56	6	11
Do. Furniture	4	14	6				Typewrtr. 17	17	0
Rent, Cleaning, Coals, etc. ...	123	2	3				121	11	9
Postage and Parcels	172	3	6				119	13	5
Telephone Subscription	7	10	0				Auditor 3	3	0
Stationery and Miscellaneous ...	57	8	7				32	8	6
				975	8	6			
Purchase of Essays				53	2	6			
Book Boxes: Books and Boxes Purchased				183	11	8½	28	19	6
Suburban Lectures: Expenses ...				120	3	0	Soirée Expenses. 81	10	8
Organizer's Travelling Expenses ...				6	13	3	115	3	7
Queen's Hall Meeting: Expenses ...				68	19	7½			
BALANCE at Credit of Society, 31st									
March, 1908 :—									
Bank Balance	83	17	7						
Sundry Debtors	31	2	7½						
				115	0	2½			
Less Sundry Creditors	37	5	5						
				77	14	9½			
				£2,535	18	8	£1,397	19	7

I have examined the above account and compared it with the Books and Vouchers of the Society, and find the same to be correct.

9 Arundel Street, Strand, W.C.
May 22nd, 1908.

W. HECTOR THOMSON, } Auditor,
Chartered Accountant.

RULES.

DEFINITIONS.

1.—The words "due notice" shall mean that the notice is received by the General Secretary before the 23rd day of any month for publication in the next issue of *FABIAN NEWS*, or as provided in Rule 8, Clause 2.

2.—A public meeting shall mean a meeting to which non-members are admitted. A private meeting shall mean a meeting confined to members of the Society.

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

3.—Before the Annual Meeting to be held in May, the Society shall elect by ballot a Treasurer and an Executive Committee of twenty-one members to hold office for one year. Due notice shall be given of all nominations for these offices. Voting papers shall be sent to all members, together with the April number of the *NEWS*, and they shall be returned to the General Office on or before April 20th. Two scrutineers shall be appointed by the Society, whose duty it shall be to open the ballot-box, to count the votes, and to certify to the General Secretary before April 23rd, for publication in the *NEWS*, the number of votes polled. The new Executive shall come into office on April 25th. In case of Easter occurring about the dates named, the Executive may alter them, giving due notice thereof; but no alteration shall exceed seven days. In case of a tie, the candidate who has been longest a member of the Society shall be elected. Any vacancies which occur during the year shall be filled by election after due notice, but only in the event of the number of the Committee falling below nineteen. Five members shall be a quorum.

4.—The Executive Committee shall conduct the general business of the Society, appoint the paid officers, prepare and publish tracts, subject to Rule 9, and appoint all delegates to represent the Society. It shall constitute three standing sub-committees to deal with (1) Propaganda; (2) Publishing; and (3) Finance and General Purposes.

COMMITTEES.

5.—Committees for special purposes shall be appointed by the Executive Committee, but notice of such committees (exclusive of those dealing with purely Executive business) shall be published beforehand in the *FABIAN NEWS*, or at private meetings, in order that any member desirous to serve on such committees may have the opportunity of sending in his or her name for consideration by the Executive.

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

6.—Resolutions of which due notice has been given shall be placed on the agenda of the first private meeting of the Society after such notice has been published. Resolutions shall not be moved without due notice, except after a vote of urgency has been carried. Business may be taken at a public meeting, but only with the consent of the chairman previously obtained.

7.—Any resolution, not affecting the constitution of the Society, its Rules or its Basis, may be declared urgent by a majority of three-fourths of the members present in a private meeting of not less than twenty-five members, and, if so declared, shall be discussed and voted upon forthwith.

8.—When a requisition signed by not less than twenty-five members is presented to the General Secretary, calling for a private meeting to discuss any resolution, the Executive Committee shall order the resolution to be printed in *FABIAN NEWS*, and shall appoint for the meeting the earliest convenient date thereafter.

When a requisition of urgency, signed by not less than fifty members, is presented to the General Secretary, calling for a private meeting to discuss a specific notice of motion, he shall summon such meeting for a date within fourteen days from the receipt thereof, and shall within seven days notify the same to all members, by circular or otherwise.

TRACTS.

9.—Except in cases of emergency, notice shall be given by the Executive Committee, either in *FABIAN NEWS* or by special circular, of any tracts proposed to be issued in the name of the Society, and every such tract shall be submitted to the members at a private meeting, and shall only be published when adopted by that meeting.

In case of emergency a tract may be adopted at any private meeting upon a vote of urgency.

Tracts bearing the name of the author may be issued by the Executive Committee on behalf of the Society.

MEMBERSHIP.

10.—Every candidate must sign a declaration that he accepts the Basis of the Society, and must make a contribution to the funds before election, the amount to be returned if he is not elected.

The names of all candidates shall be printed in *FABIAN NEWS*, and candidates shall afterwards be submitted for election, which shall be by a majority vote of the Executive Committee.

11.—Members who do not take part in the work of the Society and subscribe to its funds during one year may be removed from the list of members at the discretion of the Executive Committee.

12.—A member may be expelled from the Society by a vote of more than three-fourths of the members present at a meeting of not less than fifty members. Due notice of the motion shall be given to the General Secretary; but such notice shall not be valid and shall not be printed in *FABIAN NEWS* without the sanction of the Executive Committee.

SUBSCRIPTION.

13.—Members are expected to subscribe annually to the funds of the Society in accordance with their means.

ASSOCIATES.

14.—Any person may become an Associate by signing a statement that he is in general sympathy with and desirous of promoting the work of the Society.

Associates must pay an annual subscription of at least 10s., and are entitled to attend all the meetings not expressly confined to members, and to receive all the ordinary publications. But they are not entitled to vote at meetings of the Society or to take any other part in the management of its affairs.

GROUPS.

15.—The members resident in or near London shall, for the purpose of local work, be divided by the Executive Committee into Groups according to the localities in which they reside. Each Group shall elect a Secretary, who shall keep a list of the Group members, and shall organize the work of the Group.

The Group Secretary will be removable by a vote of the Group, at a meeting attended by not less than one-third of the Group members, or by a vote of the Society after due notice has been given.

A meeting of any Group may be summoned either by the Group Secretary or by the General Secretary by order of the Executive Committee.

A Group may appoint delegates to any body dealing specially with the affairs of the Group area.

Groups for particular subjects may be formed in accordance with such regulations as the Executive Committee may from time to time determine.

ANNUAL REPORT.

16.—The Annual Report and Balance Sheet, made up to March 31st, shall be sent to members at least seven days before the Annual Meeting.

ALTERATION OF RULES AND BASIS.

17.—No alteration of, or addition to, the Rules shall be made without due notice; or at any meeting other than the Annual Meeting, except by a vote of more than three-fourths of the members present at a meeting of not less than fifty members.

No alteration of, or addition to, the Basis shall be made until it has been adopted, after due notice given, by a vote of more than three-fourths of the members present at an Annual Meeting, and confirmed by a similar vote at a Special Private Meeting held after an interval of not less than six months.

REFERENDUM.

18.—The Executive Committee may at any time refer any question to the decision of the whole Society, the voting to be by letter.

Any mover of a resolution which, at a meeting of the Society, has been supported by not less than fifty members may claim a poll of the whole Society, the voting to be by letter.

BY-LAWS FOR LOCAL FABIAN SOCIETY AND FABIAN GROUP ORGANIZATION.

I.—THE COUNTY OF LONDON.

1. Any ten or more members may, with the approval of the Executive Committee, form themselves into a local group.

2. Every such group shall consist of members of the Society in its area, and such other Fabians as it may elect; it may elect its own associates, provided that associateship of a group shall not, as such, confer the privileges of associateship of the Society.

3. Every local group shall elect a secretary, who shall be the medium of communication between the group and the Executive Committee.

4. Every local secretary shall forward a report to the Executive Committee at least once a quarter.

5. Every such group shall be bound by all resolutions of the parent Society.

6. The Executive Committee, co-operating with existing local groups, shall constantly work for the establishment of local groups in districts where such do not exist.

II.—SPECIAL SUBJECT GROUPS.

The regulations for Special Subject Groups shall be the same as those for local groups in so far as applicable, except that

Special Subject Groups shall elect their own members from amongst the members of the Society.

III.—THE PROVINCES.

A. *Local Fabian Societies.*

1. Local Fabian Societies shall adopt the Fabian Basis, or some Basis which has been sanctioned by the Executive Committee of the parent Society, and all their members shall sign the said Basis.

2. Subject to the above, local Fabian Societies shall enjoy complete autonomy as to the election of their officers, members and associates, the conduct of their business, and the disposal of their funds, and shall not be bound by any resolution of the parent Society.

3. The reports of the local Societies shall be inserted in *FABIAN NEWS*, subject to the exigencies of space and the general control of the editor.

4. Conferences between representatives of the parent Society and the local Fabian Societies shall be held, if possible at regular intervals.

B. *Local Groups.*

1. Where no local Fabian Society exists, the Executive Committee, co-operating as far as possible with Fabian Societies elsewhere, shall endeavor to establish Fabian local groups, and such groups may be formed in any locality on the initiative of any local Fabians.

2. Such groups shall be constituted of any five or more Fabians, and shall have a status similar to that of local groups within the London area.

LOCAL FABIAN SOCIETIES.

BEDALES.—Formed in September, 1907, at Bedales School. Meets once every three weeks for lectures and discussions. Members five, associates 20. Secretary, M. S. Pease, Bedales, Petersfield.

BRIGHTON.—Has three members of the Brighton Town Council on its roll. Published and distributed leaflet on "The Ratepayer and the Unemployed." Has representative on the local L.R.C. Holds members' meetings weekly and public meetings monthly. Members 23. Secretary, J. A. Brown, Devonshire House, West Drive, Queen's Park, Brighton.

BUCKHURST HILL AND WOODFORD.—Meets fortnightly. Holds outdoor meetings. Members 22. Secretary, W. J. Read, Forest Lodge, Buckhurst Hill.

BURNLEY.—Meets monthly. Members 11. Secretary, Robert Chambers, 149 Brunshaw Road, Burnley.

BUTE.—Formed February, 1908. Meets fortnightly. Members 14. Secretary, Thomas Smythe Paterson, Mount Park Studio, Port Bannatyne.

CANTERBURY.—Secretary, Walter Speed, 32 York Road, Canterbury.

CARDIFF.—Formed March, 1908. Members 19. Secretary, A. E. Shippobotham, 53 Queen Street, Cardiff.

CARNARVON.—Fabian Fellowship formed October, 1907. Meets weekly for lectures and discussions. Members 28. Secretary, I. R. Jones, Idan House, Constantine Road, Carnarvon.

CHELMSFORD.—Formed September, 1907. Meets fortnightly for lectures and discussions. Members 16. Secretary, W. G. Smith, Galley Hall, Galleywood, Chelmsford.

COVENTRY.—Formed December, 1907. Meets monthly. Members 17. Secretary, Rev. P. E. T. Widdrington, St. Peter's Vicarage, Coventry.

CROYDON.—Formed in October, 1907, out of the existing Fabian Group. Meets twice a month. Members 69. Secretary, H. A. Oakeshott, Downside, Coulsdon, Surrey.

DARWEN.—Meets monthly. Members 14, associates three. Secretary, F. S. Walkden, 5 Pearson Street, Darwen.

GLASGOW.—Had very successful year. The work of the society is carried on through three committees—press, propaganda, and local government. Has two members of the city council—one of them city treasurer—on its roll; also a member of the school board as an associate. Society meets fortnightly. Members 90, an increase of 15 over last year. Secretary, D. Berry, 4 Newlands Park, Newlands, Glasgow.

HULL.—Formed January, 1908. Meets fortnightly during winter; monthly during summer. Has mapped out an extensive scheme of work for the coming year. Members 27. Secretary, W. Bramwell Bridges, 19 Nicholson Street, Hull.

LEEDS.—This society is undergoing reorganization.

LETCHWORTH.—Formed May, 1907. Has a considerable number of members of local bodies upon its roll. Holds meetings fort-

nightly for lectures and discussions. Members 90. Secretary, Wm. J. Brooks, Bryony, Westholm, Letchworth.

LIVERPOOL.—This society is now in its 17th year. Members gave 171 lectures during the last 12 months and carried out numerous other good works. 34 members and one associate joined during the year. One member of the city council and one elective auditor on the roll. Members 118, associates two. Secretary, S. Reeves, 316 Derby Road, Bootle.

MANCHESTER.—Meets once a week. Holds public meetings monthly. Has issued leaflets on "Rates" and on "Milk Supply." Press propaganda an important feature. Members 96, an increase of 19 over last year. Secretary, H. P. Douglas, 50 Cawdor Road, Fallowfield, Manchester.

NEWCASTLE.—Formed October, 1907. Meets monthly. Has been making investigations with regard to unemployed problem. Members 24, associates two.

PERTH.—Formed July, 1907. Secretary, T. T. Watson, Karpoma, Craigend, Perth.

SHEFFIELD.—Formed October, 1907. Meets fortnightly during winter session. Preparing tract "Facts for Sheffield." Affiliated to local L.R.C. Held large public meeting addressed by G. Bernard Shaw. Members 61, associates three. Secretary, H. M. Hallsworth, 28 Havelock Square, Sheffield.

SOUTHPORT.—Adopted the Fabian Basis November, 1907. Members 40. Secretary, W. Faulkner, 36 Kent Road, Birkdale, Southport.

SWANSEA.—Group formed October, 1907. Secretary, Paul Cocks, 7 Miranda Crescent, Swansea.

UNIVERSITY FABIAN SOCIETIES.

CAMBRIDGE.—Holds about 18 meetings yearly. Has grown rapidly, having 78 members and 138 associates against 48 and 51 respectively last year. Secretary, G. F. Shove, King's College.

EDINBURGH.—Formed September, 1907. Meets fortnightly during session for lectures and discussions. Members 40. Secretary, Robert Wilson, c/o H. W. Crawford, 28 Forrest Road, Edinburgh.

GLASGOW.—Meets eight to 10 times during session. Members 34, associates 10. Secretary, John F. Macdonald, 15 Newton Place, Glasgow.

LONDON.—Formed October, 1907. Meets twice a month. Has contributed to the "Handbook of Social Life of Students of London University" to be sold at the Franco-British Exhibition. Members 57. Secretary, G. R. Hayes, 12 Westcroft Square, W.

OXFORD.—Meets four to six times a term. The society was in part responsible for a highly successful sweated industries exhibition held in December last, and has held a number of meetings addressed by Sidney Webb, H. G. Wells, Lawson Dodd, and others. Members 93, associates 75, as compared with 36 and 15 respectively 12 months ago. Secretary, Hon. C. A. Lister, Balliol College. Secretary of Women's Group, Miss H. M. Eckhard, Somerville College.

LONDON GROUPS.

CENTRAL DISTRICT.—Secretary, Percy Vaughan, 8 New Square, W.C.

CLAPHAM (F. S.).—Secretary, Miss M. Murby, 10 Pretoria Road, Streatham, S.W.

EAST MIDDLESEX.—Secretary, A. E. Martin, 31 Meadowcroft Road, Palmers Green, N.

FOREST GATE.—Secretary, L. Isserlis, 8 St. George's Terrace, Manor Park, E.

HAMPSTEAD.—Secretary, J. W. Shaw, 14 Glenloch Road, Hampstead, N.W.

KENSINGTON AND DISTRICT.—Secretary, Miss Sime Seruya, 13 Pembroke Crescent, W.

LEWISHAM AND DISTRICT.—Secretary, Laurence E. V. Tiffen, 51 Sprules Road, Brockley, S.E.

LYCEUM CLUB.—Secretary, Miss Emma Brooke, 35 Palliser Road, West Kensington, W.

MARYLEBONE AND PADDINGTON.—Secretary, Miss C. L. Hayland, 200 Wymering Mansions, Elgin Avenue, W.

NORTHERN HEIGHTS.—Being reorganized.

ST. PANCRAS.—Secretary, H. H. Schloesser, 8 Primrose Hill Studios, N. W.

SUBJECT GROUPS.

ARTS.—Secretary, G. Holbrook Jackson, The Crossways, Langley Park, Mill Hill, N.W.

BIOLOGY.—Secretary, Dr. Eder, 2 Charlotte Street, Fitzroy Square, W.

EDUCATION.—Secretary, Miss A. B. Low, 46 Pickwick Road, Dulwich Village, S.E.

FABIAN NURSERY.—Secretary, Miss Rosamund Bland, Well Hall, Eltham, Kent.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT.—Secretary, Boyd Dawson, 30 Bridge Avenue Mansions, Hammersmith, W.

WOMEN'S.—Secretary, Mrs. Charlotte Wilson, 8A Hanover Court, W.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE.—Mrs. Mapplebeck, 18 Waldemar Mansions, Fulham, S.W.

SOCIETIES AND GROUPS FORMED SINCE DATE OF ANNUAL REPORT.

ILFORD F. S.—Secretary, T. G. Mawer, 86 Wellesley Road, Ilford.

MARLBOROUGH F. S.—Secretary, S. F. Goodchild, 7 Barn Street, Marlborough.

YORK F. S.—Secretary, Miss Dorothy Lenn, 14 Grove View, Clifton, York.

SIDCUP F. G.—Miss Rose Gardner, 21 Granville Road, Sidcup.

DULWICH AND DISTRICT F. G. (in course of formation).—Secretary (pro tem.), St. John G. Ervine, 13 Champion Park, S.E.

FABIAN SOCIETY.—The Fabian Society consists of Socialists. A statement of its Rules and the following publications can be obtained from the Secretary, at the Fabian Office, 3 Clement's Inn, London, W.C.

THIS MISERY OF BOOTS. By H. G. WELLS. Paper cover, design by A. G. Watts. 3d., post free 4d.; 2/3 per doz., post free, 2/7.

FABIANISM AND THE EMPIRE: A Manifesto. 1s. net.

FABIAN ESSAYS IN SOCIALISM. (43rd Thousand.) Paper cover, 1/-; plain cloth, 2/-, post free from the Secretary.

FABIAN TRACTS AND LEAFLETS.

Tracts, each 16 to 52 pp., price 1d., or 9d. per doz., unless otherwise stated.

Leaflets, 4 pp. each, price 1d. for six copies, 1s. per 100, or 8/6 per 1000.

The Set of 81, 3s.; post free 3/5. Bound in Buckram, 4/6; post free for 5s

I.—General Socialism in its various aspects.

TRACTS.—121. Public Service versus Private Expenditure. By Sir OLIVER LODGE. 113. Communism. By WM. MORRIS. 107. Socialism for Millionaires. By BERNARD SHAW. 133. Socialism and Christianity. By Rev. PERCY DEARMER. 78. Socialism and the Teaching of Christ. By Dr. JOHN CLIFFORD. 87. The same in Welsh. 42. Christian Socialism. By Rev. S. D. HEADLAM. 79. A Word of Remembrance and Caution to the Rich. By JOHN WOOLMAN. 75. Labor in the Longest Reign. By SIDNEY WEBB. 72. The Moral Aspects of Socialism. By SIDNEY BALL. 69. Difficulties of Individualism. By SIDNEY WEBB. 51. Socialism: True and False. By S. WEBB. 45. The Impossibilities of Anarchism. By BERNARD SHAW (price 2d.). 15. English Progress towards Social Democracy. By S. WEBB. 7. Capital and Land (7th edn. revised 1908). 5. Facts for Socialists (10th edn., revised 1906). LEAFLETS.—13. What Socialism Is. 1. Why are the Many Poor? 38. The same in Welsh.

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III.—Local Government Powers: How to use them.

TRACTS.—137. Parish Councils and Village Life. 117. The London Education Act, 1903: how to make the best of it. 109. Cottage Plans and Common Sense. By RAYMOND UNWIN. 76. Houses for the People. 99. Local Government in Ireland. 82. Workmen's Compensation Act. New edition for the Act of 1906. 62. Parish and District Councils. 54. The Humanizing of the Poor Law. By J. F. OAKESHOTT. LEAFLETS.—68. The Tenant's Sanitary Catechism. 71. Same for London. 134. Small Holdings, Allotments and Common Pastures: and how to get them. FABIAN MUNICIPAL PROGRAM, FIRST SERIES (Nos. 32, 37). Municipalization of the Gas Supply. A Labor Policy for Public Authorities. SECOND SERIES (Nos. 90 to 97). Municipalization of Milk Supply. Municipal Pawnshops. Municipal Slaughterhouses. Women as Councillors. Municipal Bakeries. Municipal Hospitals. Municipal Steamboats.—Second Series in a red cover for 1d. (9d. per doz.); separate leaflets, 1/- per 100.

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V.—General Politics and Fabian Policy.

127. Socialism and Labor Policy. 116. Fabianism and the Fiscal Question: an alternative policy. 108. Twentieth Century Politics. By SIDNEY WEBB. 70. Report on Fabian Policy. 41. The Fabian Society: its Early History. By BERNARD SHAW.

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